

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. **Isaiah 30:18**

Store In My Heart

1Chronicles 11:3

So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

1Chronicles begins with a genealogy of Israel and a list of those who returned from exile. The majority is a record of the reign of David. It gives focus to David's preparations for the temple of God in Jerusalem. David was not allowed to build the temple but God allowed him to prepare so that it could be built by his son, Solomon.

The desire of David to honor His God is something we should emulate today. Not that we need to build an elaborate physical 'house' for Him, but that we should be diligent in keeping the 'house' in which He has chosen to dwell, our hearts, focused on His work.



Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment

Doy Moyer

"For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment"
James 2:13

As with all passages, there is a context. Also, as with about all passages, there are abuses of the point being made. It's not uncommon to hear a passage like this passage invoked to argue that we should tolerate all sorts of differences over doctrine and practice, both of which are chosen.

Doctrinal difference is not the context of **James 2**. This context highlights the way the rich were treating the poor. This is not about what people choose to believe. It is about the rich showing compassion, instead of partiality, to the poor and needy. This is seen from the end of chapter **1** (pure and undefiled religion), to chapter **2** where a poor man enters the assembly and is mistreated because of partiality and prejudice. Faith acts by showing compassion and treating others as those made in God's image. One may not commit murder or adultery, but if he shows a lack of love and compassion in how he treats someone in need, then he has violated God's will and failed to show godly faith. This isn't about chosen positions of argued doctrine or giving all doctrines a free pass. This is about the way we treat others in different socio-economic positions, and we can all do better at this. See **James 2:14-17**.

James is echoing the same teaching given by the prophet Zechariah: *"Thus has the Lord of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.'" (Zechariah 7:9-10)*

There are differences between brethren on many matters. We ought to show love and respect, even when difference are too great to bear. Yet James has a specific point he is making about the way we show our faith as it involves those who might have less in this world. Mercy triumphs over judgment here. Mercy does not wipe away doctrinal differences, and that's not his point. Mercy does dissolve

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Ruben Keisler's pain relief seems to be working well.

Annette Gray had an MRI on her back and will talk with Dr on Monday. Her knee replacement is in a couple of weeks.

JoBeth Henderson will have outpatient surgery Monday to remove a Melanoma on her cheek.

Tonight we start our study in 1Samuel 7 at 5 pm.

Wednesday we will begin our study in 2Corinthians 10.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

the partiality shown against others who are in different social circumstances. Compassion helps others. Love wipes away prejudice, and there are many applications for this in our world.

If we extend James' point to chosen positions of doctrine, the problem (besides being out of context) will quickly become one of consistency. If showing mercy equates to tolerating doctrinal difference, then what happens when we can no longer tolerate a position (and that time will come)? All have lines that they don't think should be crossed. What happens then? Do we no longer show mercy? Based on this position, what has to happen?

Does James really have in mind the idea that there are no lines at all in what one believes? That "mercy" means being willing to have fellowship no matter the difference? No matter the practice? That would be absurd, and we all know it. The mercy James is talking about, however, is to be shown all the time.

There is a difference between judging the truthfulness of a doctrine one is arguing (which must be done, **1John 4:1**) and judging someone based on outward appearances (which ought not to be done, **John 7:24**). These two should not be conflated. This is not to say that we should not give some room for people to study and draw their own conclusions. It is to say that doctrine does not get some free ride just because someone drew a conclusion from a text. That conclusion is open to scrutiny. This is not to say that we should be unkind in critiquing a conclusion, but it is to say that we must still test it by Scripture. Disagreeing with a conclusion and critiquing it is not being merciless.

Are we saying that there is no room for any differences at all? Of course not. I've never known anyone who teaches that there can be no differences whatsoever. Who believes such? Yet all believe that differences have limits, and there is no getting around drawing conclusions and disagreeing with someone else in the process. Still, that's not the point James is making.

Fellowship generally works itself out over time. Differences in personal beliefs and practices are common, and we are to treat one another with love and respect. Christians are not to despise one another, even if the differences are so great that there can be no fellowship. How we ought to treat one another with love is found in a number of passages (cf. **Philippians 2:1-5**; **Romans 14**; **1Corinthians 13**). Be loving, kind, and forbearing (**Ephesians 4:1-3**). Even so, that is not the context of **James 2**, for at some point, doctrinal differences will be great enough that fellowship is no longer possible. Yet what James is discussing will always be applicable.

Be merciful toward those who may not have much or who are different from you. Welcome them into your midst. Serve God together. Don't judge based on appearance. Seek unity, and through love serve one another. This is the point James is making about the demonstration of faith.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!